When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled

Howard Thurman

SATB and flute

Elizabeth Alexander
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

From *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations* by Howard Thurman.

**Howard Thurman** (1900-1981) spent most of his life engaged in the work of Christmas. In his early professional life, he was professor of religion and director of religious life at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, and later was dean of Howard University. In 1944 he moved to San Francisco to co-found the first integrated, multi-cultural church in the United States, The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples. In 1936 Thurman led the first black delegation to Southern Asia, where he was profoundly affected by his meeting with Mohandas Gandhi. His 1949 book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, inspired nonviolent civil rights movements in the United States and throughout the world.

Growing up in the Carolinas and Appalachian Ohio, **Elizabeth Alexander** gained her love of language and music from her parents, a minister and a piano teacher. These twin passions are reflected in her over 100 choral and vocal pieces, which have been performed by more than 2000 choirs. The recipient of many awards and grants, including a McKnight Composition Fellowship, she makes her home in Saint Paul, Minnesota. To learn more about Elizabeth’s music, visit [www.seafarerpress.com](http://www.seafarerpress.com)

The cover art was created for this publication by Jonathan Machen. Jonathan lives in Boulder, Colorado with his wife and two young children. There he manages the Solstice Center LLC, a healing arts facility. He takes his inspiration from the people around him and the beauty of the Rocky Mountains and American Southwest. Other loves include playing with his kids, playing guitar, backpacking, skiing, bicycling and kayaking.

More of Jonathan’s art can be seen at [www.haikutimes.com](http://www.haikutimes.com)
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Howard Thurman

SATB and flute

Elizabeth Alexander

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Separate flute part may be downloaded at: www.seafarerpress.com/works/when_the_song_of_the_angels_is_stilled.html
When the song of the angels is stilled, when the song of the angels is stilled,
when the song of the angels is stilled,
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when the song of the angels is stilled,
when the song of the angels is stilled,
when the song of the angels is stilled,
when the song of the angels is stilled,
when the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the heavens is gone,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks.

* Original poem by Howard Thurman reads: "When the star in the sky is gone,"
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flocks, when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
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mp (f 2nd time)
sfz

work of Christmas, the work of Christmas, the

mp (both times)

work of Christmas, the work of Christmas, the

mp (both times)

work of Christmas, the work of Christmas, the work of

mp (both times)
A LOT OF HARD WORK & CREATIVITY WENT INTO BRINGING THIS MUSIC TO YOU...

...AND SOME OF IT WAS EVEN MINE.

THIS PAGE HAS BEEN INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.

(YOU KNOW WHY.)

A COMPLETE PERUSAL COPY MAY BE PURCHASED FROM ELIZABETH ALEXANDER AT

Seafarer Press

www.seafarerpress.com
Both times:

rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, To make

music in the heart, to make music in the heart, to make

music, to make music, to make
1. music, when the music, when the music, when the

star is gone, when the song is stilled, the work of

star in the heavens is gone, when the song of the angels is stilled, the work of

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shep-herds are back, when the kings are home, when the shep-herds are back with their flocks, when the kings and the princes are home, when the

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